

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for August 23, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation: (as reported to NRCG August 22, 2003 (2400)

A. Large Fires

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5

National Preparedness Level = 5

Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:

1. *Fish Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 25,000 acres, 0% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula, 595 personnel assigned.*
2. *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) – 21,481 acres, 35% contained, 11 miles E of Florence, 827 personnel assigned.*
3. *Black Mountain 2 – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) – 6,761 acres, 70% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula, 1086 personnel assigned.*
4. *Cherry Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Dietrich) – 4,088 acres, 74% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls, 398 personnel assigned.*
5. *Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) – 7,988 acres, 20% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis, 447 personnel assigned.*
6. *Mollman – 145 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles SE of Ronan.*
7. *Boles Meadow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 4,050 acres, 80% contained, 25 miles NE of Missoula, 752 personnel assigned.*
8. *Mineral/Primm – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) – 16,000 acres, 25% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula, 724 personnel assigned.*
9. *Strawberry Mountain – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Berndt) - 1,021 acres, 90% contained, 27 miles SE of Missoula, 297 personnel assigned.*

Central Montana Area Command (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:

1. *Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) – 33,252 acres, 10% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln, 626 personnel assigned.*
2. *Winslow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Blume) – 10,115 acres, 25% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview, 381 personnel assigned.*
3. *Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) –*

- 2,675 acres, 20% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston, 482 personnel assigned.
4. **Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) – 1,230 acres, 3% contained, 10 miles S of Nye, 212 personnel assigned.**
5. **Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hendricks) – 1,688 acres, 39% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart, 483 personnel assigned.**

Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fire.

1. **Beta Lake/Doris Ridge – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 485 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles S of Hungry Horse, 104 personnel assigned.**
2. **Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Paul) – 41,600 acres, 60% contained, 20 miles E of Eureka, 479 personnel assigned.**
3. **Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 955 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier, 21 personnel assigned.**
4. **Crazy Horse – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) – 10,132 acres, 30% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius, 585 personnel assigned.**
5. **Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 44,372 acres, 50% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls, 585 personnel assigned.**
6. **Trapper Creek Complex – 25,590 acres, 65% contained, This complex comprised of 4 fires is located 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell, 21 personnel assigned.**
7. **Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath) - 30,906 Acre, located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, 78 personnel assigned.**

Eastern Montana Zone MAC

1. **Hobble – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 38,320 acres, 100% contained, 6 miles E of Greycliff, 203 personnel assigned.**
2. **Craig II – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) – 9,180 acres, 100% contained, 10 miles E of Lame Deer, 613 personnel assigned.**
3. **Eastern Montana Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Walker) – 21,320 acres, 100% contained, located 24 miles W of Broadus, 427 personnel assigned.**
4. **Windmill Complex – Type 2 Team Incident Management Team (Szczepanik) – 30,020 acres, 90% contained, 17 miles E of Hardin, 547 personnel assigned.**
5. **Ball Creek – 300 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles E of Bigfork, 23 personnel assigned.**
6. **Blackfoot Lake – 500 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SSE of Hungry Horse, 9 personnel assigned.**
7. **Rathbone – 152 acres, 40% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone, 92 personnel assigned.**

B. Initial Attack **Moderate initial attack – 49 new fires 13,437 acres**

C. State Forecast For Montana

The Red Flag Warning Has Been Extended Through Today For Montana Fire Weather Zones MT 112 through 118 as well as 123 Through 133 For Gusty Winds, Low Relative Humidities, Active Fires, And Very High To Extreme Fire Dangers. Fire Weather Zones Included In This Warning Are:

Winds Of 20 To 30 Mph Will Occur On The Plains Today. While Occasional Gusts Between 40 And 50 Mph Are Expected At Ridge Top. Significant Wind Shift With Cold Frontal Passage. Gusty Winds. Widely Scattered Thunderstorms With Dry Lightning. Low Relative Humidities. Active Fires And Very High To Extreme Fire Dangers.

***STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT
928 AM MDT SAT AUG 23 2003***

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Today...Mostly Cloudy Early Becoming Partly Cloudy. Isolated Rain Showers. Smoky. Highs 71 To 81.

Tonight...Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms In The Evening Mainly Near The Continental Divide. Lows 41 To 51.

Sunday...Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers. Highs 75 To 85.

CENTRAL MONTANA

Rest Of Today...Partly Cloudy. Smoke In The Afternoon. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.

Tonight...Partly Cloudy. Smoke. Lows In The Mid 40s To Lower 50s.

Sunday...Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Rest Of Today...Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Lower 70s To Lower 80s.

Tonight...Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Lows In The Mid 40s To Lower 50s.

Sunday...Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Lower 70s To Lower 80s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA-

...Lake Wind Advisory For Fort Peck Lake Today...

Today...Partly Cloudy And Windy. Highs In The 80s To Lower 90s.

Tonight...Partly Cloudy With A Slight Chance Of Thunderstorms Southwest. Lows In The 50s.

Sunday...Partly Cloudy. A Slight Chance Of Thundershowers East Late. Highs In The Upper 80s And Lower 90s.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03

Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03

IV. - **Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:**

State and National Guard Assistance:

Current Montana National Guard Resources			
Montana Army Guard		EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN
	3 UH-60S	51 HMMVs	
		3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
		4 1 ¼ TRAILER	
		8 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
		5 M1009 TRUCK	
		2 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
		14 Pick Up	
		2 VANS	
		1 7-TON TRUCK	
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER	
		1 SUV	
270 Soldiers Assigned	3 Aircraft Modules	92 HVY Equipment	54 Airmen Assigned

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
 - Northwest Area Command
 - Missoula Area Command
 - Central Command
 - Sweetgrass County

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. **FEMA Grants:**

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures